



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE'S CHICAGO REGION DEPORTS 84 TO MEXICO IN ONE WEEK

Child abuser, arsonist on flight as agency continues to enforce immigration laws

CHICAGO— Bernarda Miranda, a 31-year-old child abuser convicted of shaking a child so hard that she caused a permanent disability, and 32-year-old convicted arsonist Miguel Angel Valdez-Bautista were two of 84 Mexico citizens deported Dec. 10 by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

These deportations reflect ICE's commitment to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system as the agency comes off a record year of deportations.

"Our primary mission is to locate, detain and remove those aliens who violate our nation's immigration laws, thereby providing the level of immigration enforcement necessary to keep America secure," said Field Office Director Debbie Achim, who leads detention and removal operations for Chicago. "We are bringing to bear the full force of our authorities to locate and remove those aliens in the country illegally."

ICE's Chicago Office of Detention and Removal, which encompasses Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri, is responsible for detaining and deporting aliens in accordance with immigration laws.

Aliens are deported aboard commercial airlines and aircraft of the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally.

"Should any of these people attempt to reenter the United States without proper authority, the Department of Homeland Security would stop them and present them to the U.S. Attorney for prosecution," said Achim. "Reentry after deportation is a felony that carries a possible 25 year prison sentence."

ICE's Chicago detention and removal officers deported 6,077 criminal and illegal aliens living in the agency's Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas operational area in fiscal year 2004, an increase of 24 percent over the previous year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.